OVER $1.5 MILLION IN HEAD START GRANTS AWARDED TO DICKINSON, JAMESTOWN AND MAYVILLE

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – U.S. Senators Kent Conrad, Byron Dorgan and Congressman Earl Pomeroy today announced that over $1.5 million in grant money will be awarded for Head Start programs in three North Dakota communities.

Just over $701,000 will be given to the Community Action Program of Jamestown, $476,362 will be awarded to the Community Action & Development Program in Dickinson, and Mayville State University will receive $345,682. The three different organizations run Head Start programs in their respective communities and the money will be used for the continuation of those programs.

"Early education of our children is an investment which provides huge social and economic returns to our country," the delegation said in a joint statement. "Head Start has proven to be an effective and cost-efficient way to build a solid foundation for learning for millions of American children. Head Start programs have given hundreds of thousands of children throughout the country the help they need to enter school ready to learn."

In 1999, there were 2700 North Dakota children enrolled in Head Start. In his budget proposal for 2001, President Clinton is proposing a $1 billion increase for Head Start which, if enacted, would mean an additional $1.4 million for North Dakota Head Start programs next year.

The North Dakota Congressional delegation strongly supports the Head Start program, which provides comprehensive developmental, educational, health, social, and other services to low-income preschool children and their families. The services are intended to prepare children to enter kindergarten and to improve the conditions necessary for their success in life.

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